Fish of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

American Shad
Alosa sapidissima

STATUS: Population abundance is severely reduced from historic levels, but is rebounding.

RANGE: From Newfoundland and Gulf of St. Lawrence to South Carolina, with a natural landlocked population in New York.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River, Anacostia River, Rock Creek.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: American Shad are offshore anadromous fish of the eastern Atlantic Ocean. They ascend to coastal rivers during spawning season. Hatched larvae are found in rivers during the summer; by autumn they enter the sea and remain there until maturity. They feed on plankton, mainly copepods and mysids, occasionally on small fishes.

THREATS: Overfishing; habitat destruction; lack of quality spawning and nursery habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stock enhancement; cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on stock management. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1, 11 **REFERENCES:** 1 - 3

District of Columbia

Invertebrate Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Greenside Darter
Etheostoma blennioides

STATUS: Extremely low population abundance; current population trend unknown.

RANGE: Found throughout most of the eastern United States from the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas to New York State.

LOCAL HABITAT: Rock Creek

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Greenside darters need clear, rocky streams and rivers with riffles, runs, and usually vegetation. Spawning occurs late March to early May. A single female produces between 404-1,832 eggs. Greenside darters consume insects and snails.

THREATS: Especially sensitive to temperature and particularly intolerant to warm water temperatures. Other threats include anthropogenic changes in rivers and pollution from pesticides, industrial, agricultural and urban waste. Lack of suitable, quality habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stream restoration and water quality improvement. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1 **REFERENCES:** 1 - 4

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Silverjaw Minnow
Ericymba buccata

STATUS: Low population abundance; current population trend unknown.

RANGE: Occurs within much of the eastern United States and within the mid-Atlantic region in western and northern Virginia and in mainland Maryland (but not its eastern portion).

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: The silverjaw minnow inhabits shallow sandy riffles and raceways of creeks and small to medium rivers. They prefer the riffles of small to medium rivers. The silverjaw minnow spawns in March through June with peak period in April. They school while spawning. Their diet includes cladocerans, copepods, and ostracods and midge larvae (chironomids) at night.

THREATS: Lack of suitable, quality habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stream restoration and water quality improvement. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1 **REFERENCES:** 1 - 3

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Warmouth
Lepomis gulosus

STATUS: Low population abundance; current population trend unknown.

RANGE: From Maryland, southern Michigan, and southern Wisconsin south to Florida, west to Texas and New Mexico.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Warmouths inhabit pools and low gradient creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes with extensive submerged vegetation and a mud or detritus bottom. Spawning occurs mid-spring through summer. Males build the protects the nest. It feeds on small fishes, crayfishes, and aquatic insects.

THREATS: Lack of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) due to siltation; lack of suitable, quality habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: : SAV enhancement and water quality improvement. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1, 7, 11

REFERENCES: 1 - 3

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Alewife
Alosa pseudoharengus

STATUS: Low population abundance; current population appears stable.

RANGE: Newfoundland and Gulf of St. Lawrence to South Carolina. There is a natural landlocked population in New York.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River, Anacostia River, Rock Creek.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Alewives are "anadromous" fish that, much like salmon and shad, mature in salt water but spawn in fresh water. They form schools in large numbers in the spring. Found in rivers, estuaries and coastal waters. They feed on diatoms, copepods, insects, and fish eggs.

THREATS: Lack of suitable, quality spawning and juvenile habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Fish passage barrier removal and mitigation. Stream restoration and water quality improvement. Stock enhancement; cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on stock management. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1, 11

REFERENCES: 1 -4

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Blueback Herring
Alosa aestivalis

STATUS: Low population abundance; current population appears stable.

RANGE: Newfoundland and Gulf of St. Lawrence to South Carolina. There is a natural landlocked population in New York.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River, Anacostia River, and Rock Creek.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Blueback herring are offshore anadromous fish of the eastern Atlantic Ocean; it ascends to coastal rivers during spawning season. It usually spawns later in the spring than the alewife, when water temperatures are a bit warmer. Spent fish move back to the sea after spawning. Young fish usually move to sea when about l month old and 1 1/2 to 2 inches long. They feed on plankton, various small floating animals, small fish fry, and fish eggs.

THREATS: Lack of suitable, quality spawning and juvenile habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Fish passage barrier removal and mitigation. Stream restoration and water quality improvement. Stock enhancement; cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on stock management. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1, 11 **REFERENCES:** 1 -3

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Atlantic Sturgeon
Acipenser oxyrhynchus

STATUS: Federal Status – Threatened. Extirpated from the District of Columbia.

RANGE: Occurs along the Atlantic coast and in estuaries from Labrador to Florida and west to the Mississippi delta.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Atlantic sturgeons are anadromous fish. They spend most of their s life in brackish or salt water and migrates into freshwater to spawn. Atlantic sturgeons are found in rivers and oceanic waters. They are bottom dwellers and prefer deep waters and soft substrate. Their diet consists of worms, snails, shellfish, crustaceans, and small fish, as well as large amounts of mud and debris.

THREATS: Lack of suitable, quality spawning habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stock enhancement; cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on stock management.

SITE MAP: 1 **REFERENCES:** 1 - 4

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

American Eel
Anguilla rostrata

STATUS: Low population abundance; current population trend unknown.

RANGE: Fresh and coastal waters throughout eastern North America to northern South America, including the Caribbean.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River, Anacostia River, Rock Creek.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: American eels occupy inshore waters, estuaries, rivers, creeks, lakes, and ponds. They prefer areas with soft bottom such as mud or sand and vegetation or other shelter in which they can hide. They are catadromous fish that spend the majority of their life in fresh and brackish water, but spawn in marine waters, specifically the Sargasso Sea. Their diet includes insects, snails, small fish, clams, and crabs.

THREATS: Overharvest of adults and juveniles worldwide; lack of quality habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Fish passage barrier removal and mitigation. Stream restoration and water quality improvement. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1, 7, 9, 11 **REFERENCES:** 1 -3

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Longnose Gar
Lepisosteus osseus

STATUS:

RANGE: Found throughout the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains south into nor[illegible] Mexico as well as the Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River and Anacostia River.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: The longnose gar can be found in med[illegible] streams to large rivers, marshes swamps lakes reservoirs, and estuaries[illegible]it warm, shallow areas where they ambush prey. Gar spawn in the spring [illegible]ng their eggs in shallow water where the eggs attach to vegetation. Lo[illegible]rovide no parental care. Their diets consist primarily of fish, that may b[illegible] one third the length of their own bodies.

THREATS:

CONSERVATION ACTION:

SITE MAP:

REFERENCES: 1 - 4

Eliminated from Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Central Stoneroller
Campostoma anomalum

STATUS: Low population abundance; current population trend unknown.

RANGE: Widely distributed through central and eastern streams of the United States and also widespread in the southern Great Lakes and upper and middle Mississippi basins, the western Gulf slope and the central Atlantic slope.

LOCAL HABITAT: Rock Creek.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: The central stoneroller is found in rocky riffles, runs and pools of streams with clear cool water. Spawning typically occurs April to May with each female laying 150-4,800 eggs. Its diet incdlues algae and detritus.

THREATS: Lack of suitable, quality habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stream restoration and water quality improvement. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1

REFERENCES: 1 - 4

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Bowfin
Amia calva

STATUS: Extremely low population abundance; current population trend unknown.

RANGE: Found throughout most of the eastern half of the United States and in southeastern Canada.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Bowfins prefer dense vegetation and clear water in a variety of swampy habitats such as ditches, channels, borrow pits, pools and sluggish creeks and rivers. Spawning generally occurs during the spring. Males prepare a nesting area and one or more females lay eggs at night. The male bowfin guards the eggs and protects the young. A voracious and opportunist feeder, it subsists on fishes including other sport fishes, frogs, crayfish, insects, and shrimps.

THREATS: Lack of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) due to siltation; lack of suitable, quality habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stream restoration and water quality improvement. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1, 11 **REFERENCES:** 1 - 4

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Hickory Shad
Alosa mediocris

STATUS: Population abundance is severely reduced from historic levels, but is rebounding.

RANGE: From Maine to northeast Florida.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River, Anacostia River, and Rock Creek.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Hickory shad are anadromous and spend the majority of their life at sea and only enter fresh water in the spring to spawn. They spawn in rivers and tributaries along the coast. Their diet includes anchovy, silverside, insects and small pelagic crustaceans.

THREATS: Overharvest; habitat destruction; lack of quality spawning and nursery habitat.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stock enhancement; cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on stock management. Enhanced monitoring.

SITE MAP: 1, 11 **REFERENCES:** 1 - 3

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet

Northern Hogsucker
Hypentelium nigricans

STATUS:

RANGE: Found over the eastern half of the United States and southern [illegible] from central Minnesota eastward through the Great Lakes region to New Y[illegible]wn the Mississippi River watershed to the Gulf of Mexico.

LOCAL HABITAT:

SPECIES ECOLOGY: The northern hogsucker prefe[illegible] creeks and rivers with medium to swift currents with gravel or rocky botto[illegible] It is intolerant of pollution, siltation, and channelization. Spawning may occ[illegible] March through early May. Parents do not care for their eggs. Its diet cons[illegible] larvae, micro-crustaceans, fish eggs, small mollusks, and algae.

THREATS:

CONSERVATION ACTION:

SITE MAP:

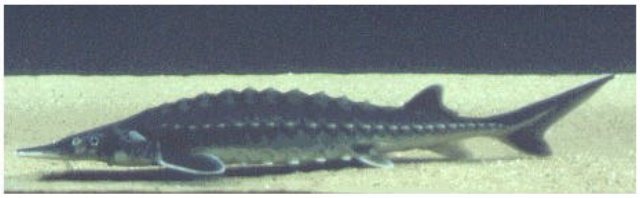
REFERENCES: 1 -3

Eliminated from Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Fish Fact Sheet



Shortnose Sturgeon
Acipenser brevirostrum

STATUS: Federal Status - Endangered

RANGE: Can be found in coastal rivers from the Saint John River in Canada to the St. Johns River in Florida.

LOCAL HABITAT: Potomac River.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: The shortnose sturgeon is an anadromous bony fish that spends much of its life in slow-moving tidal rivers or in near-shore marine waters, then returns upstream to fresh waters to spawn. They consume mostly benthic organisms such as aquatic worms and insects or crustaceans.

THREATS: Overfishing, pollution, and damming have decimated indigenous populations of the fish.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Stock enhancement; cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on stock management.

SITE MAP: 1 **REFERENCES:** 1 - 4

Invertebrates of Greatest Conservation Need

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Invertebrate Fact Sheet

Class Maxillopoda
Copepods

1. ***Acanthocyclops columbiensis***
2. ***Acanthocyclops villosipes***
3. ***Attheyella (Canthocamptus) illiniosensis***
4. ***Attheyella (Mrazekiella) illiniosensis***
5. ***Attheyella (Mrazekiella) obatogamensis***
6. ***Bryocamptus hutchinsoni***
7. ***Bryocamptus minutus***
8. ***Bryocamptus nivalis***
9. ***Bryocamptus zchokkei***
10. ***Diacyclops harryi***
11. ***Diacyclops nearcticus***
12. ***Eucyclops agilis***
13. ***Macrocyclops albidus***
14. ***Fimbriatus chiltoni***
15. **Spiny-foot copepod**

STATUS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

RANGE: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

LOCAL HABITAT: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

THREATS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SITE MAP:

REFERENCES:

District of Columbia

Invertebrate Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Class Malacostraca
Amphipods

1. **Alewife floater** ***(Anodonta implicata)***
2. **Brook floater** ***(Alasmidonta varicose)***
3. **Dwarf wedgemussel** ***(Alasmidonta heterodon)***
4. **Eastern pondmussel** ***(Ligumia nausta)***
5. **Green floater** ***(Lasmigona subviridus)***
6. **Tidewater mucket** ***(Leptodea ochracea)***
7. **Triangle floater** ***(Alamidonta undulate)***
8. **Yellow lampmussell** ***(Lampsilis cariosa)***

STATUS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

RANGE: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

LOCAL HABITAT: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

THREATS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SITE MAP:

REFERENCES:

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Invertebrate Fact Sheet

Class Bivalva
Bivalves and Clams

1. **Hay's Spring Amphipod** ***(Stygobromus hayi)***
2. **Kenk's Amphipod** ***(Stygobromus kenki)***
3. **Pizzini's Cave Amphipod** ***(Stygobromus pizzinii)***
4. **Potomac Groundwater Amphipod** ***(Stygobromus tenuis potomacus)***
5. **Rock Creek Amphipod**

STATUS: Data gap; more information forthcoming.

RANGE: Data gap; more information forthcoming.

LOCAL HABITAT: Data gap; more information forthcoming.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Data gap; more information forthcoming.

THREATS: Data gap; more information forthcoming.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Data gap; more information forthcoming.

SITE MAP:

REFERENCES:

District of Columbia

Invertebrate Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Class Gastropoda
Snails

1. Appalachian Spring Snail *(Fontigens bottimeri)*

STATUS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

RANGE: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

LOCAL HABITAT: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

THREATS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SITE MAP:

REFERENCES:

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

District of Columbia

Invertebrate Fact Sheet

Class Insecta
Butterflies

1. **Appalachian grizzled skipper *(Pyrgus wyandot)***
2. **Crossline skipper *(Polites origenes)***
3. **Eastern comma *(Polygonia comma)***
4. **Edward's hairstreak *(Satyrium edwardsii)***
5. **Frosted elfin *(Callophyris irus)***
6. **Great spangled fritillary *(Speyeria cybele)***
7. **Grey petaltail *(Tachopteryx thoreyi)***
8. **Imported (White) Cabbage *(Pieris rapae)***
9. **Little glassywing *(Pomperius verna)***
10. **Monarch *(Danaus plexippus)***
11. **Mottled duskywing *(Erynnis martialias)***
12. **Question mark *(Polygonia interrogationis)***
13. **Red admiral *(Vanessa atalantia)***
14. **Regal fritillary *(Speyeria idalia)***
15. **Variegated fritillary *(Euptoieta Claudia)***

STATUS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

RANGE: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

LOCAL HABITAT: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

THREATS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SITE MAP:

REFERENCES:

District of Columbia

Invertebrate Fact Sheet

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Class Insecta
Dragonflies and Damselflies

1. **Emerald spreadwing *(Lestes dryas)***
2. **Fine-lined emerald *(Samatochlora filosa)***
3. **Lilypad forktail damselfly *(Ischnura kellicotti willamsonii)***
4. **Mocha emerald dragonfly *(Samatochlora linearis)***
5. **Sedge sprite *(Nehalennia irene)***
6. **Sphagnum sprite *(Nehalennia gracilis)***
7. **Tiger spiketail *(Cordulegaster erronea)***
8. **Unicorn clubtail dragonfly *(Arigomphus villosipes)***

STATUS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

RANGE: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

LOCAL HABITAT: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SPECIES ECOLOGY: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

THREATS: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

CONSERVATION ACTION: Data gaps; more information forthcoming.

SITE MAP:

REFERENCES: